



State of Maine

Guidance on Factors Considered During Agency Review of Wind Power Developments

This guidance applies to entities proposing to develop grid scale wind power installations in the organized and unorganized portions of the State of Maine. This guidance is intended to provide a summary of factors considered during State agency review of an application for proposed wind power developments, and to assist in identifying potential issues related to siting in the State of Maine. This document is intended as guidance only, and does not constitute a decision matrix regarding regulatory processes.

The State Planning Office, Department of Environmental Protection, and Land Use Regulation Commission are responsible for the initial development, approval, distribution, and maintenance of this guidance. Policy and Procedures staff in the Bureau of Land & Water Quality, Department of Environmental Protection will track this guidance by recording the name of responsible individuals, document title, dates of last revision, and document numbers.

NOTE: Primary factors described in this guidance document do not necessarily reflect regulatory standards applied during permitting processes. Regulatory standards that are applied during any relevant permitting processes are available from the appropriate state agency.



Factors Considered during State of Maine Agency Review of Wind Power Developments

PRIMARY FACTORS	DESCRIPTORS	INDICATORS
WIND RESOURCE	GENERATION POTENTIAL	Potentials for wind generation according to capacity factor at site (percent of hours per year that wind energy can be generated) and wind speed.
PROJECT NEED	DEGREE OF BENEFIT	Consistency with State energy and environmental policies.
PROXIMITY TO EXISTING INFRASTRUCTURE	ROADS; TRANSMISSION CORRIDORS	Infrastructure present within relative geographic vicinity to meet access, transmission, and maintenance requirements.
PROXIMITY TO EXISTING DEVELOPMENT	POPULATION CENTERS	Degree of development or human disturbance within geographic proximity.
CONSISTENCY WITH EXISTING LAND USES	LAND USE PATTERNS	Degree of consistency with existing and targeted land uses in geographic proximity.
PROXIMITY TO CONSERVATION LANDS	LOCATION IN RELATION TO CONSERVED LANDS	The aspect of the proposed development in relation to land or easements acquired or granted for preservation.
DESIGN FEASIBILITY	STABILITY; PERSISTENCE	Site-specific construction methods and timing to avoid and minimize unreasonable adverse environmental impacts.
HABITAT	WILDLIFE; PLANTS	Threatened or endangered species, significant wildlife habitat, migration routes, imperiled natural community, or protected natural resources present.
RELATIVE ELEVATION	VISIBILITY	Differential between the average height of towers relative to surrounding areas, or feet above sea level. Include consideration of aspect (ridgeline vs. clustered)
PUBLIC INTEREST	DEGREE OF SUPPORT OR OPPOSITION	Does the project meet the criteria for a project of significant public interest?